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## ***CRYPTANTHA HUMILIS*** **CRYPTANTHA**

Low *Cryptantha* is a perennial with clumps of stems 5-30 cm tall that arise from a branched rootcrown. The clustered basal leaves are narrowly spoon-shaped, 1-6 cm long, and covered with straight hairs that arise from swellings on the surface. Stem leaves are narrower and somewhat shorter. Flowers are borne on coiled stalks in the axils of the uppermost leaves, or bracts. These stalks expand, become slender, and spread outward as the fruits mature. The white flowers have a short, tubular corolla that is 2-4 mm long and has 5 spreading lobes. The small crests at the base of the petal lobes are yellow. The 5-lobed calyx is hairy and becomes 6-13 mm long in fruit. The 4 lance-shaped nutlets are 3-5 mm long, 2-3 mm wide, and are bumpy or wrinkled, more so on the outside face. The style is less than 1.5 mm longer than the mature nutlets.

Among perennial species of *CRYPTANTHA*, *C. CELOSIODES* has basal leaves that are more broadly spoon shaped, the style of *C. SPICULIFERA* is 1.5-6 mm higher than the mature nutlets, and *C. SOBOLIFERA* has nutlets that are smooth on the back faces. A hand lens or microscope and technical key are needed for positive identification.